

EUROPE: Light to moderate showers (10-38 mm, locally near 85 mm) in southern Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and southern Poland caused additional winter grain harvesting delays and likely further reduced crop quality. Throughout the remainder of northern Europe, isolated, mainly light showers (2-18 mm) caused localized harvesting delays, while the harvesting pace increased elsewhere. Soil moisture remained abundant for reproductive to filling summer crops in northern Europe. In Spain and Portugal, dry weather maintained irrigation requirements for immature summer crops, but helped late winter wheat and early summer crop harvesting. Farther east, widely scattered, mainly light showers (7-23 mm) benefited filling to maturing summer crops in northern Italy, while dry weather covered the remainder of the Italian peninsula. Similarly, dry weather persisted in major crop-producing areas in southeastern Europe, further reducing moisture supplies for filling to maturing summer crops. Temperatures across Europe were generally seasonable, averaging within 1 or 2 degrees C of normal in most areas. During July, unseasonably cool, wet weather in northern Europe caused frequent winter grain and oilseed harvesting delays and slowed summer crop development, but maintained adequate moisture supplies for reproductive summer crops. In contrast, mostly dry weather in southern Hungary, eastern Croatia, northern Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria further reduced moisture supplies for drought-stressed summer crops. In the Po River Valley of Italy and much of the southern and eastern Iberian peninsula, below-normal precipitation favored winter grain harvesting, but increased irrigation requirements for immature summer crops.